



**COMMUNITY
SUPPORTED
AGRICULTURE**

CSA NETWORK UK

ANNUAL REPORT 2024-2025



Tomnah'a CSA Image by Andy Buchanan

OVERVIEW

More than ever community supported agriculture seems like the answer to many of today's problems, however a number of factors present a serious challenge for our farms. These are: the inequality crisis; cost of living; global supply chain issues; supermarket practice; increasing climate related weather events and the unfavourable policy environment. Despite this, they continue to produce a huge range of public goods. CSAs produce good sustainable food, thriving soils, flourishing biodiversity, vibrant communities and healthy people. They also support each other and find time to feed into the wider movement for a better food system.

We move into 25-26 in deep listening mode, ensuring that our new strategy meets the needs of our CSAs through this difficult period, guaranteeing that the CSA movement remains strong, vibrant and ready for the local food renaissance which will surely come soon.

With thanks to all our farms and farmers.

BEN RASKIN

Chair of the Board

www.communitysupportedagriculture.org.uk



CSANetwork



CSANetworkUK



csanetwork_uk

ACHIEVEMENTS

We are delighted that The JJ Charitable Trust and Roger Ross: Serve All Trust have funded us to run a two-year pilot in West Yorkshire exploring access, inclusion and circular economies in CSA. We are happy to have Jude Woods join our team as the worker on this project.

In training, our CSA third incubator programme is going strong. We continue to deliver our one-day mentoring to support new and existing farms. We ran our third online training course, 'Grow your own CSA', in partnership with Tom O'Kane from Cae Tan CSA as well as delivering two rounds of our six online masterclasses on the basics of running a CSA.

This year's member survey revealed that our farms want more of this. They were keen for us to continue and build our training and mentoring and to maintain our advocacy on their behalf. There were specific requests for financial and business support and planning and a package of templates. In policy, as well as feeding in to a range of policy events, documents and consultations, we were founder members of the new *UK Fruit and Vegetable Coalition: For an Organic Agroecological Future*, a policy group bringing together actors from across the agroecological horticulture sector. We were disappointed by the sudden removal of the *Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI)* scheme but feel well equipped to feed into its replacement following our survey of over 70 small UK farms.

We have been instrumental in getting the Landmatch England project off the ground and are really excited to have received £120,000 from Esmée Fairbairn to deliver the first year of this service.

We continue to work with Northern Food and Farming, the Agroecological Research Consortium, Urgenci, and on the Landed Community Kitchens project.

This year our staff and board met in Leeds to explore five West Yorkshire CSAs. We also promoted CSA at ORFC, the Irish Organic Conference, Groundswell, Farm-Ed, LandAlive and the Organic Growers Gathering amongst others. We have said goodbye to board members Tom O'Kane and Jasmine Black and thank them for all they have done for the network.

Street Goat CSA: Image by Mark Simmons



THE YEAR IN STATS

RESULTS FROM OUR 2025 MEMBER SURVEY

Our March '25 member survey had 70 responses of which 54 were trading CSAs. For those trading:

- Land: Average of 7.93 ha (or 3.18ha discounting four farms with over 10ha), median of 2.4ha
- Members: Average of 87 households, median of 75 (up from last year)
- Workers: Average of 1.9 full time equivalents, median of 1.2
- 97% produce vegetables, 83% salads, 71% herbs, 50% soft fruit, 47% top fruit (up from last year), 19% eggs, 23% flowers, 9% meat as well as nuts, dairy, fuel and mushrooms
- Our membership has remained stable and we ended the year with 184 farm members and a total of 299 CSAs listed on our database
- Waiting lists had declined with 17.9% of CSAs having a waiting list (compared to 30% in 2024).
- CSAs amazingly continue to offer a wide variety of mechanisms to increase access to their food with around a quarter now using a sliding scale for payments, two fifths offering workshares, a fifth offering subsidised shares, and over half donating food to food banks

Interestingly, despite the challenges, **perceived resilience across all areas had increased since last year.**

- **Economic resilience** (ability to survive through a bad year) had increased slightly from the previous year's score of 2.8/5 to 2.9/ 5
- **Social resilience** (support from members and community) had increased from 3.6/5 to 4.4/5
- **Environmental resilience** (how able we are to adapt to changing weather and climate and support had increased 3.5/5 to 3.9/5
- 30% of CSAs feel completely robust and able to adapt to unexpected changes and a further 61% partially so
- Life satisfaction had increased marginally from 3.6 to 3.7 out of 5 (ONS average 3.8), happiness from 3.8 to 3.9 out of 5 (ONS average 3.75) and sense of worthwhileness of what you had stayed the same at 4.3 out of 5 but was significantly higher than the national average of 3.9 out 5

- Our CSAs' biggest concern this year was finance, which over half of respondents were worried about, followed by extreme weather, and burnout
- Around a quarter of CSAs had found it hard to find the skilled staff they needed. The changes in regulations had affected CSAs with fewer taking on trainees
- Only six CSAs (11%) had applied for SFI. Six had applied for Countryside Stewardship and four for Farming In Protected Landscapes funding. Some 65% had received other funding from a range of sources, mostly The Lottery, charitable trusts and local authorities
- Two thirds of CSAs hosted school visits but only half of these got paid to do so

Worryingly, over 20% of respondents said "surviving" was their greatest achievement. Ours hearts go out to all of our CSAs in these incredibly challenging times. What they do is exceptional. Read it here:

"Every week we provide over 600 Veg boxes to local households, including subsidised boxes, we provide food to 20+ local businesses, good quality food to food banks valued at over £1000 a month, and invite over 40 onto the land every week to grow food, participate in wellbeing workshops or conservation activities. The CSA model provides an antidote to many of our societal problems; environmental degradation through food systems, isolation, chronic health conditions such as obesity, mental health."

"We feed nearly 100 local households every week of the year with beautiful organic veg :)"

"We are creating a great community spirit in an area where there was very little before"

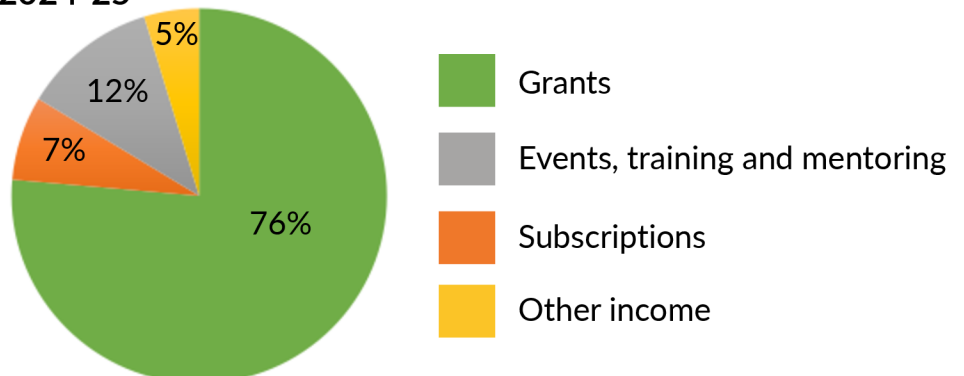
FUTURE PLANS

In line with our vision for a CSA in every neighbourhood by 2035, and taking into account the changes CSAs currently face we are focusing on better understanding the factors which influence CSA success, building the movement and the network and providing resources to support CSAs along the way.

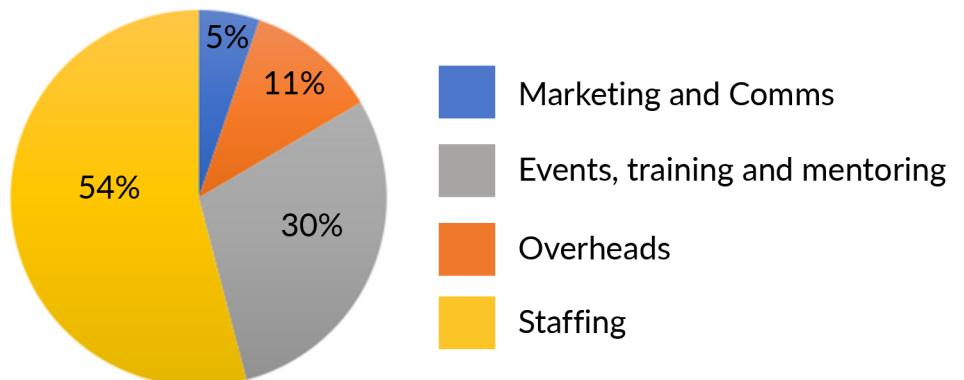
FINANCES

Our income has remained stable with an income of £91,700 in 2024-25 against a spend of £89,523. The CSA Network UK is hugely grateful to our funders: The Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, The A-Team Foundation, Farming the Future, The Roddick Foundation, The Pebble Trust, The Postcode Local Trust, The Frank Parkinson Agricultural Trust, The JJ Charitable Trust and Roger Ross at The Serve All Trust. We extend a heartfelt thanks to our sponsors and private donors.

Income 2024-25



Expenditure 2024-25



Thanks to our funders:



**Esmée
Fairbairn**
FOUNDATION



**Farming
the Future**



Frank Parkinson
AGRICULTURAL TRUST



**The
Pebble Trust**



The Roddick Foundation

THE J J CHARITABLE TRUST

ROGER ROSS: THE SERVE ALL TRUST

And sponsors:



FERRYMAN POLYTUNNELS
01363 84948



**CHARLES
DOWDING**



ReAg Tools

Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) Network UK Ltd, Society No. 32285R
c/o Canalside Community Food, Radford Semele, Leamington Spa CV31 1TY